



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

News Release

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For Immediate Release: June 22, 2010

DEP Seeks Feedback from Public on County's Environmental Programs Through Five-Minute, Online Survey

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) invites the public to participate in an online survey that should take no more than five minutes. As part of its Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy, DEP is interested in gauging public opinion and knowledge of programs related to maintaining and improving the health of streams. The survey will be available until July 30 at www.surveymonkey.com/WRIS.

DEP will use the information gathered in the survey to develop a Public Outreach and Stewardship Plan to educate residents, instruct them in actions they can take, and engage their help in meeting the County's watershed improvement goals through runoff and pollutant management, trash reduction and stream resource protection.

DEP is the lead agency for ensuring that the County meets the conditions of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit, which is issued by the state of Maryland every five years. Under its new permit, public involvement is a key element in Montgomery County's requirement to control storm drain system discharges and associated pollutants.

Earlier this year, DEP hosted two regional public meetings to discuss the state of the County's streams and solicit input from the public on watershed-specific restoration plans that address stream pollution and meet the new permit requirements.

For more information, or to provide additional comments, go to <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwaterpermit> or contact Watershed Outreach Planner Ryan Zerbe at 240-777-7744.

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